



## **PROCEEDINGS OF BROWN COUNTY SOLID WASTE BOARD**

A regular meeting was held on **June 15, 2009**, 1:30 p.m., at the Brown County Materials Recycling Facility, 2561 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI.

1. Call to Order – meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Strenski at 1:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mike Strenski, Vice-Chair  
Chuck Rhyner  
Norb Dantinne  
Mike Fleck  
Dawn Goodman (arrived at 1:40pm)  
Bud Harris (arrived at 1:35pm)  
Allison Swanson  
John Katers

Excused: Jim Rasmussen, Chair

Also Present: Charles Larscheid, Brown County Port & Solid Waste Dept.  
Wess Damro, Brown County Port & Solid Waste Dept.  
Tony Walter, Green Bay Press Gazette  
Jacob Klaus, Green Bay Law Department  
Dale DeNamur, Brown County Purchasing Dept.  
Mike Michels, Cornerstone  
Pam Pirman, Foth Infrastructure & Env.

3. Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Fleck and seconded by John Katers.** Unanimously approved.

4. Approval/Modification – Meeting Minutes April 27, 2009

**A motion to approve the April 27, 2009 minutes was made by Allison Swanson and seconded by Mike Fleck.** Unanimously approved.

5. Single Stream Recycling

a) Direct Haul to BOW Single Stream MRF Change – Request for Approval

Wess Damro, Recycling Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the formula developed for paying Brown County customers, such as the City of Green Bay for single stream recycling processing. The information at this point is an estimate only. Based on May revenues, \$2.1M has been received for materials sorted and sold. Operating costs were \$1.9M and hauling costs & depreciation at \$3.2M. Annually, this would be a net loss for the single stream operation of approximately \$1M. Brown County's share will be 39.44% which

would give Brown County a loss for the year of \$431,000. Damro reiterated that these are only estimates at this time and the value of the materials will change as the markets improve

Damro also noted that since Brown County has prepaid a significant portion of their debt, Outagamie County has calculated the costs to account for that accordingly. With this being taken into account, Brown County's total would be \$154,000 or \$8.27 per ton.

Director Larscheid stated the Appleton Post Crescent has published articles questioning the cost passed onto Outagamie County communities. Outagamie County, however, collects the material from all the communities and there have been issues throughout the years regarding that cost.

Financially Brown County is no worse off than operating the dual stream recycling and believes it was important to offer single stream to the communities in order to them to be more efficient and more economical in their collection operations. Larscheid indicated that he felt Brown County had accomplished what they originally set out to do.

Damro explained that the difference between Brown County and Outagamie County, is that Brown County is not dealing with transfer station costs. If 18,700 tons of material goes through Brown County's facility, it will cost \$9.65 per ton to operate the facility. Adding the \$8.27 fee for Outagamie County brings the total cost per ton to \$17 to \$18 for Brown County to provide single stream recycling. Damro noted these numbers are based on the value of material in May 2009.

Recycling Responsible Unit communities who signed an agreement to partner with Brown County will receive the base charge of \$18.00 per ton. Contracted customers, such as Oconto County, will be charged an additional \$5.00 (\$23.00 per ton). All other customers, public or private, will be charged an additional \$10.00 (\$28.00 per ton). The base fee is dependant on current market conditions and the value of material. The current fee will cover Brown County's operating costs for the transfer station along with single stream education, Outagamie County's estimated costs, as well as the cost of the value of the materials.

Staff is requesting approval for a customer who wants to direct haul only to the Outagamie Single Stream facility. All costs except the transfer cost of \$3.00 per ton will still be charged. Damro noted since Brown County is not incurring the cost to transfer material, customers who haul directly to Outagamie County could save \$3.00 per ton.

Damro explained that the 39% for single stream expenses is paid by Brown County is a shared cost to transfer materials. The current contract is for two years. Since the increase year to year is minimal compared to all other factors which go into the hauling fee, increase or decreases in gas prices will not be a factor. An audit on the recycling operation of the three counties is done annually; however, there has been discussion as to whether this should be performed on a semi-annual or quarterly basis for setting prices to our customers.

Should fuel costs change dramatically, Damro felt the \$3.00 per ton direct haul fee could be adjusted, although he noted the market price of finished goods would also have to be considered.

**Motion to approve the tipping fee structure as proposed, with monthly adjustments to the hauling charge based upon actual costs of hauling on a monthly basis, was made by Allison Swanson and seconded by Chuck Rhyner.** Unanimously approved.

b) BOW Single Stream MRF Grand Opening & Open House

Director Larscheid informed the Board of the upcoming Grand Opening & Open House for the new Single Stream Facility. The Grand Opening is scheduled for Monday July 13 at the facility in Outagamie County. Invitations will be sent to the Solid Waste Board, Brown County Board, elected representatives including towns, villages and cities in Brown County. Short speeches from each county executive will be given and Governor Doyle (or a representative of his office) will speak. Facility tours will be available from 10:00am until noon. Exhibits will be open for viewing until 2:00pm. The Grand Opening is by invite only, however, on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Open House which will allow anyone access to view the facility. A commemorative plaque with the names of the County Board, Solid Waste Board, Executive, Director, and recycling staff representing each County will be displayed at the Outagamie Single Stream Facility. A smaller version of the plaque will be displayed at the Brown and Winnebago facilities. Larscheid noted that the names will be printed as they appear in the Brown County Directory.

c) BOW Single Stream MRF Staffing

Director Larscheid indicated the Single Stream Facility has been operating since the third week of May. Except for some problems with the baler everything has been running smoothly. Sloan, a recycling expert out of California, was hired to assist with the project and has been instrumental in the startup of the facility. Valley Packaging has been contracted to do the processing of materials at the new facility. A verbal agreement has been reached with Outagamie County to retain Wess Damro, Recycling Manager, for the marketing the material at the single stream facility. Damro currently markets all material at the Brown County facility. A Memorandum of Understanding is being written which would charge Outagamie 10% of the Recycling Manager's annual time & benefits as well as 5% of the account clerk's annual time and benefits. Larscheid requested comments supporting the single stream program which could be used in the upcoming press release.

6. 2010 Port & Solid Waste Budget Preview

a) State of WI Solid Waste Fee Increases

b) Brown County Waste Disposal Tipping Fees

A summary of Governor Doyle's budget recommendations was distributed to the Board. The Governor has proposed a \$4.40 increase and the Joint Finance Committee added an additional \$2.70. Director Larscheid discussed the proposed tipping fee increases as shown on the second page of the handout. The State Assembly passed the current version with relatively little change. It will now go to the State Senate. Brown County is working on a resolution to pass along the proposed increase to our customers. The Resolution will be brought before the

Board at the July Meeting. The current tipping fee at the Transfer Station is \$30.00 per ton. In the past the Department was able to subsidize the tipping fee by using excess money in some of the solid waste funds, however, these funds are now depleted. The actual cost of the Transfer Station is \$34.00 per ton. The tip fee in 2008 was \$24.00 per ton. Larscheid noted that fortunately, due to lower gas prices this year, along with the new contract, the current estimated actual cost is \$31.00 per ton. Brown County had hoped to hold the tip fee at \$30.00 for 2010. If the proposed State tip fee increase of an additional \$7.10 per ton passes, Brown County will need to pass this increase onto the communities (30% increase). Larscheid noted that most communities are on levy limits and will have a hard time paying these fees. This is the first time Brown County has had to raise tip fees mid-year. Larscheid gave kudos to Tony Walter, Green Bay Press-Gazette, for the great article he wrote getting the word out that the Brown County Board passed a Resolution opposing the state fees.

c) Brown County Budget

The P&SW Department budget needs to be to the County Executive by July 24, 2009. The next Solid Waste Board Meeting will be July 20<sup>th</sup> at which time Director Larscheid will present the proposed budget for the Board's review. One major expense will be for a new department vehicle since one of the current vehicles has a bad transmission and it would not be cost-effective to repair. Selling the VandeHei Farm to generate revenue was also discussed. Director Larscheid will bring more information to the next meeting.

7. Gas-to-Energy Facility

Mike Michels, Cornerstone, provided a progress report on the Gas-to-Energy facility. Miron Construction is the general contractor and has completed everything on site but still has some documentation reports and drawings to turn in. The power plant was started in two phases: The first week of March the power plant started. It took the first two months to get everything running properly. To date, the power plant has had one solid month of operation. There are still times when only one engine is running instead of two engines however, and troubleshooting continues on this issue. The power plant is rated at 1.85 megawatts but is only running at 1.4 megawatts primarily because of insignificant gas. There have been challenges with the old well field and some of the gas wells are clogged and need to be replaced in order to get the gas out and to the power plant. Chad Doverspike, Facility Manager, felt the gas skid system may have drawn too hard on the landfill. Due to a breakdown in communication, the power plant went down without the flare on which built pressure in the landfill and blew some of the well heads off. Currently 8 to 15 wells are considered to be redrilled. A software upgrade and new programming is also being looked into so the engines can maintain a vacuum on the well field without overpulling. Surface emission monitoring was performed as well as camera work down the wells to see where the gas is and which wells are clogged. Approximately \$4M was budgeted to build the power plant and to date that is relatively close to what has been spent. It was budgeted that the plant would generate 1.2M kilowatt hours per month but in the last 30 days only 750,000 kilowatt hours were generated. Since June 5, 2009 both engines have been running which should bring the numbers up for next month. Payment from Wisconsin Public Service for the electricity was budgeted at \$89,000 per month; however, the payment for the last 30 days was in the amount of \$56,000. Michels is confident the problems will be resolved and the numbers will be closer to the budgeted amounts. Michels stated it is typical to encounter problems whenever starting a Gas-to-Energy Power

Plant. Foth Infrastructure & Environmental has been hired by Brown County as an independent consultant for the well field and is performing a limited evaluation of the compressor and the blower. Expenses for drilling new wells and putting new well heads on will be brought to the Board for approval.

Fabco Equipment has done a good job operating the power plant. Fabco is paid 1.4¢ per kilowatt hour. If the kilowatts do not go on the grid, Fabco does not get paid. Fabco has asked for a modification to their contract regarding payment so they are able to cover their costs because of the less than anticipated revenues. Nothing has been decided on this to date but Brown County is looking into a “gap” payment. Michels feels the issues at the power plant are a shared responsibility and talks are continuing with Fabco on these issues.

#### 8. Waste Transfer Station Operation & Hauling Contract

In April the SWB awarded the Waste Transfer Station Operation Hauler contract to Tritt Hauling. However, due to financial irregularities, the Executive Committee rejected Tritt’s proposal. The Brown County Board then awarded the contract to Badgerland Hauling, who is the current hauler at the Transfer Station. Chad Doverspike, Project Manager, met with the owner of Badgerland and discussed 1) closeout the existing contract 2) startup date for new contract and 3) new issues on the new contract. Doverspike noted that for the last four months Brown County has had no issues or complaints with Badgerland. Doverspike is optimistic this will continue. Termination as well as penalty clauses are included in the new contract. Under the current contract Brown County is paying approximately \$11.93 per ton. The new 5-year contract begins August 1, 2009 and is at \$11.05 per ton based on a \$2.05 fuel price.

Prior August 1<sup>st</sup>, Brown County will ensure that everything at the Transfer Station is in working order. Badgerland will be responsible for maintenance at the facility once the new contract begins. A binder containing the weekly, monthly, semi-annual and annual maintenance items is on site and Badgerland will complete said tasks and return the checklist to Brown County staff. A checklist was not used during the current contract period.

#### 9. Director’s Report

- *Single Stream*

Larscheid has been talking with other counties on possibly bringing material to our facility. This new single stream facility was designed to handle material from Brown, Winnebago, Outagamie and Oconto Counties. At this time there is one shift, however, another shift could be added if additional materials are brought in. At least three other counties have expressed interest. Larscheid noted this would allow some expenses to be passed on which in turn would lower our costs.

- *Waste Transfer Station Contract*

As discussed at previous meetings, there have been problems with the older trucks leaking oil onto the parking area in the lower part of the Transfer Station. This oil then ran into the storm sewer and the collection pond on site. Brown County has pumped the pond twice at a cost of \$20,000 each time. Last fall a drain system was installed to catch this runoff. The older trucks have been replaced, the drains are handling the runoff and a larger aerator was installed in the pond. The pond has since remained clean. Oil dry will be kept on site should a hydraulic hose blow off and leak oil.

- *Kewaunee County*  
Brown County was contacted by Kewaunee County a year ago about installing gas wells at their landfill and starting a flare. At that time Larscheid had offered to help if some type of arrangement could be agreed upon. Larscheid received a call last week regarding setting up an agreement to have some of Brown County personnel monitor their landfill. Chad Doverspike, Landfill Manager, and Craig Wirtz, Solid Waste Technician, are both familiar with gas collection systems, blowers, etc., having worked on hundreds of wells at Brown County's landfills. The Kewaunee County landfill has four wells. Larscheid requested a scope of services from Kewaunee County. Larscheid stated this would be an excellent opportunity for the department to bring in additional revenue.
- *MRF Closure*  
June 29, 2009 will be the last day for dual stream collection at this facility. Money in the depreciation fund was used for the single stream facility with \$100,000 kept aside to be used for modifications to the tip floor. Staff will monitor how the facility is operating before any decision on modifications is considered. Enviro Tire was awarded the contract to remove all the recycling equipment and fill in the pits on the tip floor. Some members of the Board were concerned that Bruce Phillips, who Wess Damro has been dealing with at Enviro Tire, has had previous bankruptcies and lawsuits against him.  
Damro indicated that Brown County lawyers had done a thorough background search and although they found the same information noted by the Board, Bruce Phillips was not shown as the owner. Brown County is paying Enviro Tire \$14,400 to remove the equipment and fill the pits. No long-term commitment is involved and the concrete work has been subcontracted.
- *HHW Aide Job Description Modification*  
Human Resources reviewed the job description for Household Hazardous Waste Aide. This is a union position and currently the department has three aides at Hazardous Waste. Since part of the job description allows operating machinery, operation of a front end loader was added. This will allow the aides to manage the tip floor as well as perform their other duties at HHW. Wess Damro, Recycling Manager, and Chris Blan, Solid Waste Technician, met with the aides to review their new job responsibilities and create a rotating schedule.
- *Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program*  
A regional household hazardous waste program with Outagamie and Winnebago Counties is being discussed. Currently Brown County holds five Clean Sweeps annually in Outagamie County. Material collected in Outagamie and/or Winnebago would be brought to our facility. Department staff would go to Outagamie two days per week and every Saturday, alternating between Outagamie and Winnebago. Brown County would bill out our cost plus a 40% surcharge. If details can be worked out and agreed upon, this program would begin in 2010.
- *Emerald Ash Bore*  
Director Larscheid is a member of a group dealing with the emerald ash bore issue which has devastated parts of Michigan and Illinois. Although it has not reached this part of the State of Wisconsin yet, it is only a matter of time. To prevent further spread of the disease, infected wood must be kept for 10 years before anything further can be done with it. Director Larscheid mentioned to the group that Brown County may have property which could be used as a holding area for the infected wood, such as the East Landfill, BayPort, West Landfill or South Landfill. Ash comprises 23% of all the trees in Brown County.

- *Pyrolysis*

Oneida Tribe, NWTC and Brown County met with project developers who are interested in pyrolysis (converting specific waste into energy). The developers are associated with the Oneida Tribe. Talks are still in the preliminary stages. John Katers mentioned that in a recent article, a case study showed good results for converting waste to energy as well as using the resulting ash to increase soil fertility.

- *Delinquent Accounts*

The department's current policy for delinquent accounts is to charge interest after 30 days; prohibit customers from using the Transfer Station after 60 days; and permanently revoke privileges at the Transfer Station after 90 days and refer to Brown County Corporation Counsel for legal action. Last October, Larry's Hauling was placed on the delinquent list, interest was being charged, and information was sent to Corporation Counsel. However, as of today's date, Larry's Hauling is in arrears \$210,000. Also delinquent are Peters Concrete \$6,000 and U.S. Energy Biogas \$40,000. The Board questioned why Larry's Hauling was allowed to reach such a large amount. Larscheid indicated that due to personnel changes in P&SW as well as Corporation Counsel, this account fell through the cracks. The Board suggested the current policy be reviewed.

10. Such Other Matters as are Authorized by Law

No other matters to discuss.

11. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn was made by Norb Dantinne and seconded by Mike Fleck.**  
Unanimously approved.

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James Rasmussen, Chair  
Solid Waste Board

Charles Larscheid, Director  
Port & Solid Waste Department